

20 September 1967

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MEMORANDUM FOR: United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT : Review of Far East Requirements for
Photographic Coverage

REFERENCES

- a. ✓ USIB-D-41.14/276 (COMOR-D-25/201),
19 January 1966
- b. ✓ USIB-D-41.14/269 (COMOR-D-25/192),
19 October 1965. *Submarine Problem*
- c. ✓ USIB-D-41.14/283 (COMOR-D-25/207),
4 March 1966
- * d. ✓ Memo to Holders of USIB-D-41.14/308
(COMOR-D-25/220), 23 May 1967
- e. ✓ USIB-D-41.14/260 (COMOR-D-25/184),
13 September 1965. *Under Review*
- f. ✓ USIB-D-46.9 series (COMIREX-D-72 series)
Monthly Status

1. COMIREX has conducted a general review of the present requirements for Far East coverage. These requirements have all been set forth specifically in the references to this memorandum. The long range general requirement for the Far East (reference a) and the specific requirement for coverage of China submarine bases (reference b) have been postponed until COMIREX has more specific information on overall reconnaissance capabilities in the area.

NRO review(s) completed.

2. Other outstanding requirements instructions have been reviewed as reported below. In the following paragraphs, COMIREX also shows how it intends to manage these requirements from a reporting standpoint.

a. Coverage of lines of communication in South China and North Vietnam (reference c). COMIREX recommends

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Requirements Subcommittee of COMIREX will continue to maintain the information on coverage as previously reported to USIB [redacted] COMIREX will be briefed on this coverage [redacted] and will only report to the Board if coverage appears to be seriously delinquent or it appears necessary to request some change in operations.

b. Coverage of North Vietnam to detect the introduction of offensive missiles (reference d). This requirement has been reaffirmed but there is an ongoing study which may modify the essential area to be searched. COMIREX will be advised [redacted] of the coverage that has been obtained and will

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have available to it a map of the area showing this coverage in accordance with the grid reporting procedures previously established. No report will be made to USIB unless significant information is developed which might require that the requirement be changed.

c. South China and Laos border targets (reference e).

Will be retained as part of the target list pertinent to the South China/North Vietnam picture. There will be no special reports submitted to USIB.

d. Sino-Indian Border (reference a). Requirements

have been reaffirmed and will continue to receive priority

attention in [redacted] Unless activity in the border areas requires the resumption of manned aircraft reconnaissance, periodic reporting will be confined to the status report (reference f).

e. Coverage of North Korea (reference a). This

is receiving priority attention and will be the subject of a separate paper.

3. COMIREX concludes that:

a. The general requirement for the Far East is adequate although it is not being met in strict accordance with the specifications. Intelligence on activity in the area does not call for special collection efforts.

b. The addition of the BLACK SHIELD capability to cover North Vietnam has provided resolution and swath width coverage of tremendous assistance to both the "offensive missile" requirement and coverage of "lines of communication." COMIREX notes, however, that, with the present prohibition on crossing the border, there are important lines of communication targets located in two areas in South China which cannot be covered by BLACK SHIELD.

c. Coverage of special South China and Laos targets will most probably be met satisfactorily. The BLACK SHIELD missions can cover Laos and should be able to pick up some of the targets in South China without penetration. An emergency in this area might lead to a recommendation to use BLACK SHIELD for penetration.

d. The Sino-Indian border coverage, while falling short of the specifications, is probably adequate for the present situation.

e. North Korea has not been properly covered and the separate paper referred to above will consider whether this

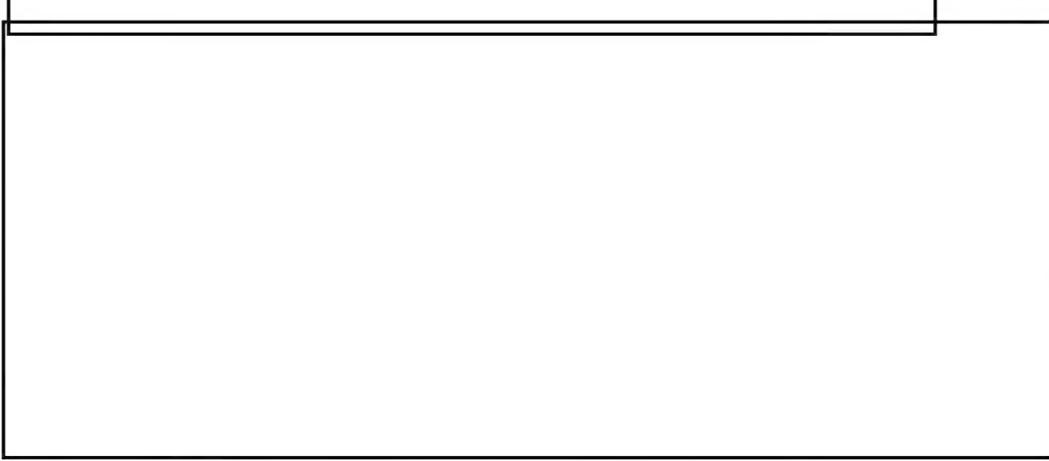
requirement can be met by drones, oblique cameras in the U-2, or whether BLACK SHIELD might be required.

f. Although not mentioned above because the requirement has not been ^{seen by} sent to the Board, [redacted]

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4. It is recommended that the Board

a. note and approve the COMIREX changes recommended in paragraphs 2a, b, c, and d, especially the suspending of weekly reports to USIB, and

b. consider the need for relaxation on the prohibition of BLACK SHIELD penetration of South China in order to provide better coverage of "lines of communication."

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